

unless we act now. It is a debt that continues to grow. It is not enough to say that we would like to have a balanced budget. Were it that easy, we would have done it at least once during their lifetime.

It is clear after 25 years, that we must pass the balanced budget amendment to force this body to act.

Mr. Speaker, we must protect their future. We must take a stand here today so that the next generation will not bear the burden of our mistakes.

I urge my colleagues to support the balanced budget amendment.

DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mr. RICHARDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, after all of the smoke and hot air clears from the debate on the balanced budget amendment, what is the difference between the two parties on this issue?

First, we Democrats support a balanced budget, many of us a constitutional amendment, but unlike the Republicans, we want to specify where the cuts are so that the American people know and the States can plan adequately.

We Democrats support the Constitution and will oppose a supermajority that is clearly unconstitutional. The Republicans do not.

We Democrats believe Social Security should be excluded, and have an amendment clearly stating that. Republicans have an innocuous amendment that better should be known as the "Endangered Chicago Seat Protection Act."

Mr. Speaker, the President last night was bipartisan. He was positive, and we should do the same in this body.

TEN REASONS WHY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mr. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, the top 10 reasons why the American people deserve a balanced budget amendment:

No. 10, fiscal discipline does not work.

No. 9, we need to make it as difficult to get into debt as it is going to be to get out of it.

No. 8, the national debt is \$4.6 trillion and climbing.

No. 7, 80 percent of the American people want it.

No. 6, since the people cannot raise their annual income just to meet their bills, Congress should not be able to either.

No. 5, contrary to Democratic rhetoric, tax increases may have never balanced the budget.

No. 4, it is in the Contract With America.

No. 3, businesses balance their budgets, families balance their budgets. Now it is time for the House of Representatives to balance the budget.

No. 2, if we do not pass a balanced budget amendment, even Big Bird will not be able to teach our young children to count as high as the debt is going.

And the No. 1 reason why the American people deserve a balanced budget amendment: Because it would protect the Social Security trust fund from tax-and-spend bureaucrats.

FEEL GOOD RESOLUTION

(Mr. VOLKMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting, when I reviewed this morning House Resolution 44 brought up by the Rules Committee, that I find that the first order of business is not a balanced budget amendment but it is really a fraud on the House of Representatives and the American people, which is known as House Concurrent Resolution 17. It is a feel gooder. It does not have any effect. It is not even ever going to be signed into law. It is supposedly going to tell the people, our senior citizens who receive Social Security, that they are not going to be touched. Well, folks, that is not the effect of a concurrent resolution. That basically is a fraud.

The other thing I find in this rule, this is very interesting, is that the other body, the Republican Party, the majority have now admitted that the House Committee on the Judiciary did not follow the rules when they marked up the budget resolution for a balanced budget. Right in here it says, "Points of order against consideration of the joint resolution for failure to comply with clause 2(g)(3) of rule XI are waived."

That is an admission, that is an admission that the Committee on the Judiciary did not follow the rules of the House when they marked up the balanced budget amendment.

Why should we waive that rule? Why should we say that the Committee on the Judiciary does not have to follow the rules of the House?

BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. METCALF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, at the end of every month Americans sit down with a checkbook in one hand and a stack of bills in the other. They realize that you cannot continue to spend what you do not have.

But Congress has never fully accepted that concept. Mr. Speaker, for decades Congress has led this Nation into a sea of red ink. Clearly a constitutional amendment is now the only way

to rescue Congress from itself, and to force it to do what 80 percent of our constituents would have us do; that is, balance the budget.

Some say we do not need an amendment to balance the budget, we just say "no" to the special interests.

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They say just balance the budget. They are wrong, tragically wrong.

Jefferson said, "let no more be said of confidence in men but bind them down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution."

TWO MEN WORTHY OF PRAISE

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend two individuals who yesterday performed acts worthy of praise, one a Democrat, and one a Republican.

The first, Mr. Speaker, is President Clinton, who last night delivered a State of the Union Address in this Chamber that laid out a vision for our Nation. It is a vision in which lawmakers put aside their partisan differences and work together for the common good, for the well-being of the American people. It is a vision he calls the new covenant.

The second individual I want to commend, Mr. Speaker, is Congressman GERALD SOLOMON, the chairman of the Committee on Rules in this House. Yesterday, in the spirit of the new covenant, Mr. SOLOMON decided to remove from the wall of his committee room the portrait of Howard W. Smith, a portrait that many Members of this House felt was unworthy to hang in a place of such distinction.

I want to thank Chairman SOLOMON. He is a man of honor, integrity, and good will.

These two men, President Clinton and GERALD SOLOMON, deserve our thanks and our praise.

THE STATE OF THE UNION SPEECH

(Mr. DORNAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, my good friend, JOHN LEWIS, the only two in either Chamber that were there the day Martin Luther King gave his stirring speech, I hate to disagree with him on anything, but I was offended by Clinton's speech last night on 15 points.

I will do a 5-minute special order tonight I have just signed up for. I can only mention four.

The first one is new covenant. The Ark of the Covenant was the Old Covenant. The New Covenant was the Son of God, Jesus Christ. I was offended